

REMARKS

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 12-23 stand rejected as being anticipated by Laurencin. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant submits that Laurencin does not qualify as prior art to this application, since it was filed on June 4, 1998, after the priority date of this application, May 23, 1997. Applicant submits that the pending claims are supported by the specification of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/862,740, from which this application claims priority as a continuation. Applicant submits that claims 12-23 are patentable in view of Laurencin.

Double Patenting

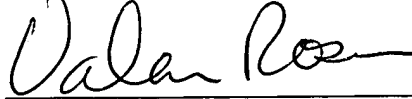
Claims 12-23 stand rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-26 of Langer. A terminal disclaimer is submitted herewith.

Power of Attorney

A power of attorney and statement under 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) were submitted to the Patent Office on December 16, 2005. However, neither the attorney of record nor the correspondence address for this application have been changed to reflect the request of the assignees. Copies of the power of attorney and statement are enclosed herewith. The undersigned respectfully requests that the correspondence information for this application be adjusted accordingly.

A petition for extension of time and the appropriate fee are enclosed herewith. Please charge any fees associated with this filing, or apply any credits, to our Deposit Account No. 03-1721.

Respectfully submitted,



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